

THE

לפנא

# SHEKEL



The Journal of Israel and Jewish History and Numismatics  
Volume 51 No. 1, January February March 2018

## 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



## BATTLE OF BEERSHEBA



*Featuring:*

- Catalog of AINA Membership Medals
- Helmet Coin of Hasmoncan Yehohanan I
- Wolyn Memorial Medal
- Nat Sobel Story

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The American Israel Numismatic Association (AINA) was founded in 1967 as a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the study and appreciation of Israel's numismatics, past and present, and all aspects of Judaic numismatics. More information is available on our website [www.theshekel.org](http://www.theshekel.org).

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# THE SHEKEL

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MEL WACKS, EDITOR

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### 6 Battle of Beersheba

by Jonathan Feldstein



### 4 What's New?

### 14 Medals Commemorating the Charge at Beersheba

### 17 Coins Commemorating the Battle of Beersheba

### 19 David Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba

### 21 Catalog of AINA Membership Medals

Compiled by Mel Wacks



### 32 The Helmet Coin of Yehohanan I by Hans Sonntagbauer

### 38 Jewish General Hospital (Montreal)

### 43 The Nat Sobel Story

### 41 Wolyn Memorial Medal

by Nat Sobel



### Coming Next Month Israeli Wonder Woman Coins



# WHAT'S NEW?

## WIN 1 RICHIE'S \$5,000 DONATION

The Eric P. Newman Education Society has given a very generous contribution to AINA. In his letter, Andrew Newman writes in part "Your organization's work are exactly what Eric would want to encourage. On his behalf, we urge you to carry the torch of collecting and scholarship forward in the years ahead."

Numismatic collector, scholar and philanthropist Eric Newman recently passed away at the age of 106 and in his honor, The Eric P. Newman Education Society has sent out checks to over 40 organizations totaling over \$250,000.

## WIN 1 BOARD NOMINATIONS INVITED

AINA needs your ideas as to how we can best serve collectors, interested parties, scholars, etc. in the field of Israel and Judaea History and Numismatics. We do most of our work via emails (so you must have a computer). It does not take a

lot of time, but you are sure to find it rewarding. The requirements are that you must be at least 18 years old and a member of AINA for at least 3 years. If interested, please email [ainapresident@gmail.com](mailto:ainapresident@gmail.com) before March 1, 2018.

## WIN 1 FREE PHILADELPHIA IN AUGUST

Every year, AINA participates in the World's Fair of Money & Coin Convention sponsored by the American Numismatic Association.

In 2018, it will be held at the Philadelphia Convention Center from August 14-18. We will have a table in the bourse area where you can schmooze with AINA officials, and you are invited to our general

meeting on Thursday, August 16, from 1-3.

At the general meeting you will hear Mel Wacks talk about the "Women Appearing on Jewish-American Hall of Fame Medals," and learn the name of the winner of the Shekel Prize for the best publication in the field of Judaea, Israel or Holy Land numismatics.

*Continued*

## *AINA MEDALS SOLD OUT*

AINA's 50th Anniversary medals commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Balfour Declaration and the 50th Anniversary of the Reunification of Jerusalem had small final mintages,

assuring their rarity and future desirability: just 121 bronze, 52 pure silver and 12 gold-plated pure silver medals were made.

## *FIRST EDITOR OF THE SHEKEL, NAT SOBEL, PASSES AWAY*



Nat Sobel passed away on December 3, 2017, about a month before his 91st birthday. Nat helped to incorporate AINA, created the

name and font of The Shekel, and was the first editor of The Shekel. He was a child survivor of the Holocaust and was active in many Jewish organizations. Nat also designed numerous medals, many for AINA (you can see them in the Catalog of AINA Membership Medals in the following pages) and for the Brooklyn Numismatic Society, which he founded.

One of his most important medals, memorializing the eradicated Jewish communities of Wolyn, is featured in this issue. The picture shows Mel Wacks (L) and Nat (R) in 1995.

## *JEWISH SHEKEL STARS AT U.N.*

On December 8, 2017 at an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the status of Jerusalem, Israel's Ambassador Danny Danon recalled that 3,000 years ago King David

declared Jerusalem the capital of the Jewish people. He held up the replica of a coin from 67 C.E. which says "Jerusalem the Holy," noting that three years later the Jews were sent into exile for 2,000 years.☛

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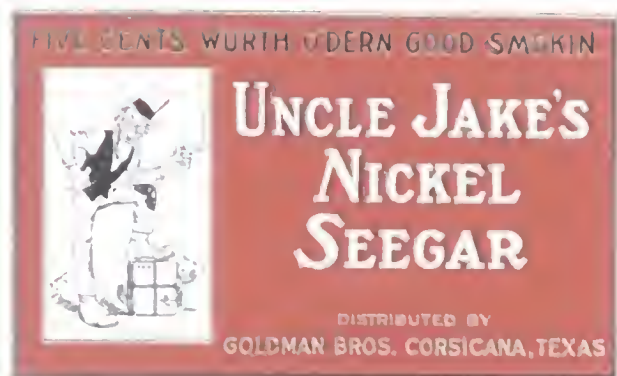
### PALESTINE BANKNOTE

5 Palestine Pounds, 1939 #B932021; VF

Sold in our November, 2016 auction (#43) for \$2,200



# Number One Money Man



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HE & HIS BROTHER JOSEPH MARRIED 2  
SISTERS, DAUGHTERS of the 1st RABBI BORN  
in AMERICA (G.M. SEIXAS). HE SERVED in



1923 (despite the fact that it is  
handwritten 1921) HAMASHBIR  
(formerly part of the Worker's Movement  
Union known as Histadrut, and was the  
start of the current Solel Boneh Road  
Building group of today) ONE GRUSH  
PAYMENT TICKET EQUALS a GRAM  
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with his PARTNER HENRY ASBURY,  
the CANDIDACY of LINCOLN for  
PRESIDENT). He was APPOINTED  
by the PRESIDENT for another TERM  
as POSTMASTER from 1861 UNTIL

his DEATH in 1864. FOUR of his SONS FOUGHT  
for the CONFEDERACY & 2 OTHERS were with  
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# BATTLE OF BEERSHEBA

## CHARGE OF THE LIGHT HORSEMEN

By Jonathan Feldstein

**R**ecent events and publications celebrating and marking the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration are certainly noteworthy and significant as a milestone in realizing the modern dream to restore Jewish sovereignty to the Land of Israel. It's undeniable that the Balfour Declaration was pivotal in the realization of this dream, but it should not be noted that it is neither Lord Balfour or "His Majesty's Government" that confers the right of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel; that was a declaration from God to Abraham and his descendants, in a publication that's somewhat older, and much better known.

Notwithstanding that, celebrations marking the 100th anniversary on November 2, 2017 are with good cause. However, in the same week as that 100th anniversary, another

lesser known but no less important 100th anniversary on the road to restoring Jewish sovereignty to the Land of Israel also took place: the Battle of Beersheba. It's arguably the case that were it not for the latter, the significance of the Balfour Declaration may never have been realized. Both are milestones of prophetic significance and show God's hand.

### **Treaties Immortalized in the City's Name**

The Biblical significance is not just about God's promise that's been fulfilled, but about the desert geography and topography that made the Battle of Beersheba so significant. Beersheba is the ancient site of wells that were critical in Abraham making that his home. Abraham and Isaac made pacts with others

*Continued*

over the water there. Those treaties were immortalized in the name Be'er Sheva ("Well of the Oath").

In late 1917, the world was engaged in the "Great War," with many of the same allies together who would take arm against many of the same adversaries two decades later. Notably, because the Turkish Ottoman Empire controlled large parts of the Middle East including Israel, when the British issued the Balfour Declaration, they had no real authority over the Land to make such a promise.

That's what makes the 100 year old battle on October 31, days before Balfour, historic in many ways, and undoubtedly turned the tide on British and their allies' eventually defeating the Turks and gaining control of Israel and other areas once part of a crumbling Ottoman Empire.

That October 31, as part of the British campaign, the Australian 4th Light Horse Brigade routed the Turkish military in a heroic battle, and captured Beersheba which was key to eventually pushing the Turks back, breaking the Ottoman military near Gaza, and paving the way for the pivotal advance deep into historic Israel.

Under General Allenby the British deceived the Ottomans into thinking that they would attack from Gaza. Surprising the Turkish defenses was a strategic and operational success, capturing Beersheba in one day. This

provided the British and Australian troops with much needed supplies and most importantly water from the Beersheba's ancient wells.

### **Breaking the Back of the Turkish-German Resistance**

According to a proposal for a museum by the Light Horse Association, the battle itself is considered "one of the most strategic and decisive Allied victories of the First World War. In one dramatic hour the Australian Light Horsemen, backed up by the New Zealanders, captured Beersheba."

"The battle's significance in the context of the war was that it broke the back of the Turkish-German resistance in the Middle East. In more far reaching geopolitical terms, it proved to be one of those pivotal historically changing moments."

Some 800 Australian mounted infantry of the 4th Light Horse Brigade sat on a ridge nearly four miles away from the Turkish troops. There was no cover between them and the Turks. The 4th Light Horse Brigade was not concerned that their horses might not be able to charge across the hot, dusty desert, but were concerned about the enemy guns on the opposite side. The order to attack must have struck many of the Australian troops as ill-advised, if not suicidal. But time was of the essence, heroism abundant, and it was the only strategy that stood a chance of success.

*Continued*



*Recreation of the Charge of Beersheba*

The capture of Beersheba was strategically critical militarily, but no less critical was control of its water. The need for water became critical for the 50,000 to 60,000 Allied troops and their horses who were marching across the desert toward Beersheba. Beersheba was the oasis they needed. Beersheba veteran Horse Trooper John “Chook” Fowler recalled the late afternoon attack:

“At the order the two regiments—the 4th on the right and 12th on the left—walked off the ridge and down onto the plain. They rode in three successive lines, 300 yards apart. Each man was ordered to ride with drawn bayonet—with its gleaming 18-inch blade it closely resembled a short sword. The men deployed into

artillery formation, keeping a distance of five yards between each man to minimize the potential carnage from cannon fire or aerial bombardment. Almost immediately they spurred their mounts into a trot, then a canter and finally a gallop, shouting at the top of their lungs and waving their bayonets overhead.”

### **Water from Abraham’s Ancient Wells**

Neither the Turks nor their German advisors anticipated such an attack. Yet soon, artillery shells began raining down on the charging troops, killing horses and throwing warriors out of their saddles. Eventually, the light horsemen reached inside

*Continued*

*Continued*

the Turkish gun range, and the threatening shells exploded behind them. But within 800 yards of their trenches, Turkish guns opened up and took a toll. Once behind the Turkish lines, the light horsemen dismounted and intense hand-to-hand fighting ensued.

By the next day, tens of thousands of men and animals refreshed and quenched their thirst with the water from Abraham's ancient wells.

Of the 800 light horsemen only 31 were killed and 36 wounded, much of which due to the hand-to-hand fighting.

Beersheba was one of the most astonishing and inspiring victories in a seemingly endless war with more

than its share of bloody debacles. The fact that mounted infantrymen participated from half a world away, brandishing only bayonets against entrenched rifle, machine gun and artillery positions bore this out. In the process they gained immortality and the turning point on the end of what would later be known as World War I.

Scores of communities in Israel, the UK and the rest of the world are marking the 100th anniversary of Balfour. Yet at the same time, more than four times the number of light horsemen who fought in battle have descended upon Jerusalem from Australia and New Zealand again, this time not to fight but to celebrate their bravery, and the outcome. ♪



*2013 The Battle of Beersheba - Joint stamp issue of Australia with Israel*

*Photo courtesy of [www.stevenwinstamps.co.uk](http://www.stevenwinstamps.co.uk)*

# MEDALS COMMEMORATING THE CHARGE AT BEERSHEBA

Source: [www.militaryshop.com.au](http://www.militaryshop.com.au)





*This commemorative medal recalls the charge of the 4th Light Horse Brigade at Beersheba on October 31, 1917. It honors the 800 men of the 4th and 12th Light Horse regiments who charged as cavalry across open desert to capture the Turkish stronghold. Only 500 to be released.*



*The Waler's Mate medal commemorates the special bond between the men and horses of the Australian Light Horse Regiment.*



*The Stand to Fight medal remembers the mounted infantry of the Australian Light Horse and its specially minted to commemorate the Centenary of the Charge of Beersheba. As a mounted infantry, the light horsemen would normally dismount to fight on foot like other soldiers. Their mounts provided greater agility and speed in reaching the enemy but were often sacrificed away from fighting.*



*The Charge at Beersheba medal honours the men and horses of the Australian Light Horse Regiment who on October 31, 1917, stormed across open desert in a full cavalry charge to capture the Turkish stronghold that marked the southern end of the Gaza defensive line. The attack allowed the Allies to capture Gaza a week later and Jerusalem by December 9th.*

# COINS COMMEMORATING THE BATTLE OF BEERSHEBA

Source: [www.Downies.com](http://www.Downies.com), [www.wynyardcoins.com.au](http://www.wynyardcoins.com.au),  
[www.talismancoins.com](http://www.talismancoins.com) and [www.eshop.ramint.gov.au](http://www.eshop.ramint.gov.au)



*Australia, 1 Dollar, Aluminum-Bronze.*



*Australia, 5 Dollars, 1 oz. 999 Fine Silver. Maximum Mintage 5,000*

*Continued*



*Solomon Islands 10 Dollars 28gm 925 Fine Silver*



*Niue 100 Dollars 10g Pure Gold Maximum Mintage 150*



*The Kalman Katz Israeli Coin Collection featuring Israeli coins, notes and medals from 1948 to 1998 plus a selection of ancient Jewish coins will be exhibited at the Jewish Museum of Australia (Victoria) through December 31, 2018*

# DAVID BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV IN BEERSHEBA



"Israel's capacity for science and research will be tested in the Negev." David Ben - Gurion

**B**en-Gurion University was established in 1969 as the University of the Negev with the aim of promoting the development of the Negev desert that comprises more than sixty percent of Israel. The University was later renamed after Israel's founder and first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, who believed that the future of the country lay in this region. After Ben-Gurion's death in 1973, the University was renamed Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Today, Ben-Gurion University is a center for teaching and research with about 20,000 students. Some of its research institutes include the

National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev, the Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology, the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research with the Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies, and the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism.

BGU is playing a critical role in transforming Beer-Sheva into Israel's next high-tech center.

Beer-Sheva's Advanced Technologies Park (ATP), adjacent to BGU's Marcus Family Campus, is open for business. Multi-national high-tech companies, such as

*Continued*

EMC, Oracle, Hewlett Packard, and Deutsche Telekom, are leveraging the research and development prowess of BGU<sup>1</sup> and taking up residence in the AEP.

The Israeli government is also establishing a new national cyber security hub in Beer-Sheva called CyberSpark, which is a joint venture between BGU<sup>1</sup>, private industry and

the government.

With the planned moved of the IDF's strategic intelligence units to a high-technology campus steps away from the AEP and the BGU campus, the Negev is truly becoming Israel's Silicon Wadi. <sup>10</sup>

Sources: Wikipedia, American Associates Ben-Gurion University of the Negev



*1978 Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Official Award Medal. 935 fine silver, 59mm. Designed by the Shalom Brothers. The reverse features the initials standing for Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in the form of a flame. These medals were not sold, but are available for commemorative purposes only. The 59mm brass version was given to the 13 members of the 2008 HNT Study Group (page 4). Also issued in 35 and 45mm, 917 fine gold.*



*1995 Ben-Gurion University of the Negev 25th Anniversary Medal. Copper-Nickel, 38mm, 26mm. Maximum mintage 1,010. Designed by Eli Sher. The reverse inscription is "THE POWER OF SCIENCE WILL BE TESTED IN THE NEGEV".*

*Photos courtesy of Israel Coins and Medals Corp.*

*Continued*

# CATALOG OF AINA MEMBERSHIP MEDALS

By Mel Wacks

*Photos courtesy of Julian Lerdman, [www.sheqel.info](http://www.sheqel.info), etc*

From 1973 through 2017, AINA sent free small (about 31 mm) medals each year to all paid-up members. There were several different reverse motifs used, all (except 1987 Morris Bram issue) featuring the AINA logo designed by Nat Sobel, who was also the first editor of *The Shekel*.

The early issues mimicked the Season's Greetings medals sent annually by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation to subscribers. Later, medals featured designs from Israel coins and medals, ancient Judaeon coins, and many that were unique to the AINA Membership medals.

There are some interesting anomalies—only in 1979, “IGCMC

Building” medals were issued both for AINA members and members of Israel Numismatic Clubs; 1995-1996 “Jerusalem 3000 Years” medals were issued in both brass and copper-nickel; two different medals (“First Jewish Settlers in America 1654-2004” and “Simon Bar Kochba Coin 132-135 CE”) were dated 2004; the 2006 “Financial Security” medal is the only one without a date; and no medal is dated 2008.

Many of these medals were thrown into drawers and not properly stored. There are probably relatively few complete collections in existence, and trying to assemble a complete collection today could be quite challenging—but very worthwhile.

## 1973 (Copper-nickel)

*“Homage to Israel's Navy”*

*Design from 1973 IGCMC Season's Greetings medal*

*Design taken from Israel Navy photograph.*

*Mintage: 2,000*



*Continued*

*Continued*

### 1974 (Copper-nickel)

*Israel's 25th Anniversary*

*Design from 1974 IGC MC Season's Greetings medal*

*& 1973 Israel's 25th Anniversary of Independence medal*

*Designer: Gideon Katch*

*Mintage: 3,000*



### 1975 (Copper-nickel)

*Israel Great Coins & Medals Cup*

*Design from 1975 IGC MC Season's Greetings medal*

*Designer: Zvi Grunblum*

*Mintage: 5,000*



### 1976 (Copper-nickel)

*Israel Bonds*

*Design from 1976 IGC MC Season's Greetings medal*

*& 1975 Israel's 25th Anniversary of Independence year*

*Designer: Zvi Narkis*

*Mintage: 5,000*



### 1977 (Copper-nickel)

*Strengthening Peace*

*Design from 1977 IGC MC Season's Greetings medal*

*Designer: Ben-Zion Rothman*

*Mintage: 4,000*



### 1978 (Copper-nickel)

*El Al*

*Design from 1978 IGC MC Season's Greetings medal*

*& 1969 El Al medal*

*Designer: Ben Shahn*

*Mintage: 4,000*



*Continued*

*Continued*

**1979 for AINA Members  
(Copper-nickel)**

*"IGCMC Building"*

*Design from 1979 IGCMC Season's  
Greetings medal*

*Designer: Ya'akov Anidi*

*Mintage: 5,000*



**1979 for Members of Israel  
Numismatic Clubs in the U.S.  
and Canada (Copper-nickel)**

*"IGCMC Building"*

*Design from 1979 IGCMC Season's  
Greetings medal*

*Designer: Ya'akov Anidi*

*Mintage: 5,000*



**1980 (Copper-nickel)**

*"Shalom"*

*Design from 1980 IGCMC Season's  
Greetings medal*

*& 1979 Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty medal*

*Designer: Zvi Narkiss*

*Mintage: 3,000*



**1981 (Copper-nickel)**

*"Jerusalem Panorama"*

*Design from 1981 IGCMC Season's  
Greetings medal*

*& 1971 Knesset medal*

*Designer: Jacob Zim*

*Mintage: 2,154*



**1982 (Brass)**

*"Israel's 34th Anniversary &  
A.I.N.A.'s 15th Year of Service"*

*Designer: Jacob Hennenberg*

*Mintage: Unknown*



*Continued*

*Continued*

### 1983 (Brass)

*Nomismatics: Metallic Ambassadors of Good Will*

*Designer: Nat Sobel*

*Mintage: Unknown*



### 1984 (Brass)

*Pomegranates: Israel 36: HNA 17*

*Designer: Nat Sobel*

*Mintage: Unknown*



### 1985 (Brass)

*Is 1967-1988: Jerusalem Reborn: I  
HNA 190, 191*

*Designer: Nat Sobel*

*Mintage: Unknown*



### 1986 (Brass)

*Statue of Liberty: Coping with the Past*

*Designer: Nat Sobel*

*Mintage: Unknown*



### 1987 (Brass)

*HNA 20th Anniversary: May the  
Watchtower of the Society of Man be  
Enlightenment*

*Designer: B. Piken*

*Mintage: Unknown*



*Continued*

Continued

**1987 (bronze)**

*"Morris Bram, 1909-1987" (Brass)*

*Designer: Alex Shagin*

*Mintage: Unknown*

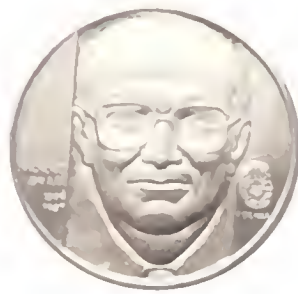


**1987**

*"Morris Bram, 1909-1987" (Silver)*

*Designer: Alex Shagin*

*Mintage: Unknown*



**1988 (Brass)**

*"AINA 21st Anniversary — Thou shalt rejoice"*

*Designer: Nat Sobel*

*Mintage: Unknown*

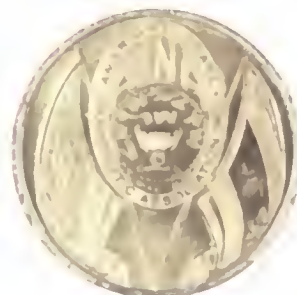


**1989 (Brass)**

*"22 Years — Bringing a Jewish Light to the Numismatic World"*

*Designer: BK*

*Mintage: Unknown*



**1990 (Brass)**

*"AINA-ANA-ANS-IGCAM-INS Israel-INS USA"*

*Designer: Nat Sobel*

*Mintage: Unknown*



Continued

*Continued*

### 1991 (Brass)

*Ancient Judean Coin Motifs*

*Designer: Unknown*

*Montage: Unknown*



### 1992 (Copper-nickel)

*ANA 125th Anniversary*

*Designer: Nat Soltes*

*Montage: Unknown*



### 1993 (Brass)

*150th Anniversary of Birth of the*

*Designer: Unknown*

*Montage: Unknown*



### 1994 (Brass)

*Israel Palestine Peace Accord*

*Designer: M. J. Baskin*

*Montage: Unknown*



### 1995-1996 (Brass)

*Jerusalem 3000 Year*

*Designer: Unknown*

*Montage: Unknown*



*Continued*

*Continued*

**1995-1996 (Copper-Nickel)**

*"Jerusalem 3000 Years"*

*Designer: Unknown*

*Mintage: Unknown*



**1997 (Brass)**

*"100 Years of Zionism"*

*Designer: Mel Wacks*

*Mintage: Unknown*



**1998 (Brass)**

*"Israel's 50th Anniversary"*

*Designer: Ed Schman*

*Mintage: Unknown*



**1999 (Brass)**

*"Hamsa—Read the Shekel"*

*Designer: AGW (Ada Weinschel)*

*Mintage: Unknown*



**2000 (Brass)**

*"New Millennium—Peace, Security"*

*Designers: Moe Weinschel & Ed Schman*

*Mintage: Unknown*



*Continued*

**2001 (Brass)**

*Foran: I Believe*  
*Designer: Unknown*  
*Mintage: Unknown*



**2001 "Mule" (Brass)**

*Foran: I Believe*  
*Reverse: University of California*  
*Designer: Unknown*  
*Mintage: 700*



**2002 (Brass)**

*First Jewish State (6667 CE)*  
*Designer: Mel Backs*  
*Mintage: 1,200*



**2003 (Brass)**

*Antiquities: Mattabona Monodine Code*  
*30.8 BCE*  
*Designer: Mel Backs*  
*Mintage: 1,200*



**2004 (Brass)**

*First Jewish Settlers in America*  
*1654-2004*  
*Designer: Mel Backs*  
*Mintage: 1,200*



*Continued*

**2004 (Brass)**

*"Simon Bar Kochba Coin 132-135 CE"*

*Designer: Mel Wacks*

*Mintage: 1,200*



**2005 (Brass)**

*"E=MC<sup>2</sup>"*

*Designer: Mel Wacks*

*Mintage: 1,000*



**2006 No Date (Brass)**

*"Financial Security"*

*Designer: Mel Wacks*

*Mintage: 1,000*



**2007 (Brass)**

*"40th Anniversary AINA"*

*Design from 1977 AINA Tenth Anniversary medal*

*Designer: Nathan Karp*

*Mintage: 1,000*



**2008 (No Medal)**

**2009 (Brass)**

*"Victor David Brenner's Lincoln Cent"*

*Designers: Mel Wacks & Paul Conner*

*Mintage: 1,000*



*Continued*

## 2010 (Brass)

*We Remember – Yad Vashem*

*Designer – Paul Kahane*

*Mintage – 9000*



## 2011 (Brass)

*People of the Book*

*Designer – Paul Kahane*

*Mintage – 9000*



## 2012 (Brass))

*Israhel Cup*

*Designer – Mel Wickes & Paul Cooper*

*Mintage – 2000*



## 2013 (Brass)

*Million Dollar Smiles*

*Proposers – 6667 C1*

*Designer – Mel Wickes & Paul Cooper*

*Mintage – 9000*



## 2014 (Brass)

*Sylvia Hattner Maenka*

*Designer – Paul Cooper*

*Mintage – 850*



*Continued*

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**2015 (Brass)**

*"One Little Goat Two Zuzim"*

*Designers: Mel Wacks & Paul Conner*

*Mintage: 850*

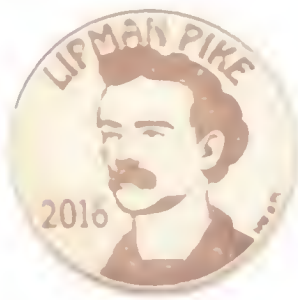


**2016 (Brass)**

*"Lipman Pike"*

*Designers: Mel Wacks & Paul Conner*

*Mintage: 950*



**2017 (Brass)**

*"50th Anniversary of AINA"*

*Designers: Mel Wacks & Paul Conner*

*Mintage: 750*



**2018 (Brass)**

*"70th Anniversary of Israel Independence"*

*Mintage: 600*



# THE “HELMET-COIN” OF HASMONEAN YEHOHANAN I

By Hans Sonntagbauer

Towards the end of the 2nd century BCE the Hasmoneans succeeded in shaking off the Seleucid domination over Judaea and establishing an independent state. Even in ancient times, apart from the establishment of independent political bodies and administrative units, the introduction of a new currency was among the first steps undertaken for the creation of the newly established state.

The Hasmoneans struck no gold or silver coins, but focused on the production of bronze coins, mainly Prutot and semi-Prutot (Lepta) denominations, thus reaching the

whole populace. Due to the previous domination of Judaea by the Ptolemies and Seleucids, the motifs on Hasmonean coins also used their patterns. So one can find on Hasmonean coins not only general Hellenistic motifs, such as wreath, diadem or horn of plenty, but also explicitly Seleucid motifs such as the anchor.

The “helmet-coin” (Fig. 1) is regarded as the earliest independent Hasmonean coin (Rappaport 1976, 184) that with its motifs (helmet; parallel double cornucopia) is quite different from the later emissions of the Hasmonean dynasty.

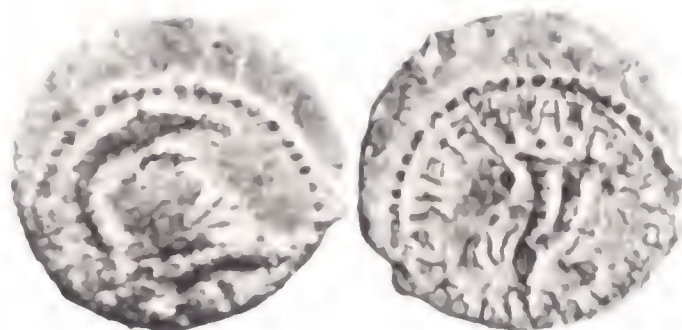


Fig. 1 Yehohanan I (154–104 BCE)

11–18 mm, 3–38 gm. (Heritage Auctions, Inc. 8–9 March 2012. The Shoshana Collection of Ancient Hebrew Coins – New York, lot 20082)

Scholars disagree on the cause for this unique appearance. Ya'akov Meshorer (1982, 66) initially supposed that the helmet would hint to the title "Ethnarch", a grant awarded by Julius Caesar to Yehohanan II, in the year 47 BCE. This elevation in rank, which undoubtedly was the most prestigious honor ever received by a Hasmonean ruler thus could have found its way on this coin.

Moreover Ya'akov Meshorer mentioned the fact that Hellenism - at the time of the emission of the coin - was the dominant intellectual trend in Judaea. Though, one must not neglect the growing Roman influence on the Jewish civilization, becoming noticeable since the conquests made by Pompey. Therefore Meshorer supposed that the helmet might reflect a possible Roman connotation, as a similar Roman helmet (Apex) would symbolize the authority of the Roman High Priest (Pontifex Maximus). Though, he later came to the conclusion that the "helmet-coin" has to be attributed to Yehohanan I (Hellenistic name Hyrcanus) who reigned 134-104 BCE (Meshorer

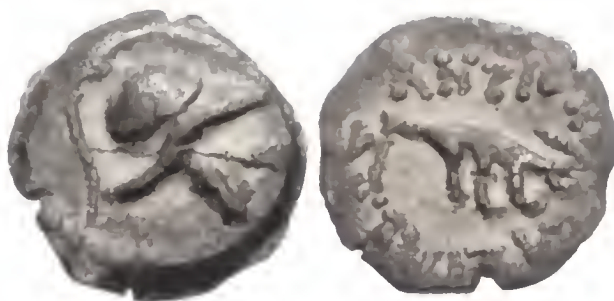
2001, pp. 36 and 207) following the results of a study performed by Dan Barag and Shraga Qedar who came to the conclusion that the Yehohanan coins were minted by Yehohanan I (Hendin 2010, p.163).

In his "Guide to Biblical Coins" (2010, pp. 176), David Hendin describes different symbols such as cornucopia, pomegranate, lily, anchor and star. But there is no reference to the origin and significance of the helmet on the coins of Yehohanan I in his description of the coin (2010, p. 187).

Kindler (2000, p. 318) expresses the idea that the helmet could have served to demonstrate the military power of Yehohanan I.

In my view, a solution of the question concerning the origin of the "helmet-coin" could be found in the 1st century CE book "Jewish Antiquities" by Flavius Josephus in connection with the Scriptures (1 Macc.) that illuminate the historical context in which this coin could have been struck.

Looking at the coin, the first thing that catches one's eye is the unusual horn (ibex) next to the helmet. The helmet itself recalls models of the Seleucid Antiochos VII (Fig. 2).



*Fig. 2 Antiochos VII (138-129 BCE), AE, 12 mm, 0.98 gm (CNG Online Coin Shop, CNG 2002).*

As mentioned above, Flavius Josephus could possibly provide a hint in his book "Jewish Antiquities" (13, 249) to the solution, as he mentions that Yehohanan I was the first of the Hasmoneans who made use of foreign mercenaries in his military campaigns. It is known that Yehohanan was able to achieve substantial territorial gains during his reign. He annexed Transjordan in the Eastern areas, in the North the territories from Samaria to Beth Shean, and in the South the province of Idumea (Jacobson 2015, 98, Josephus 13, 255-258).

The question in this context is: Who were the mercenaries available to Yehohanan I at that time?

Hendin (2010, pp. 183) mentions that the mercenaries were mainly Pisidians and Cilicians. In addition, possibly Yehohanan I also made use of the services of Macedonian mercenaries. In this context Flavius Josephus as well as the Scriptures (1 Macc.) are helpful, because in both sources it is mentioned that the Macedonian usurper of the Seleucid throne, Diodotos Tryphon, after the conquest of Dora by Antiochus VII was able to escape to Apamea but was captured and killed there (probably late in 138 or early in 137 BCE). Diodotos Tryphon, who had seized power in the Seleucid Empire in 142 BCE was of Macedonian origin and based his power on Macedonian soldiers. His

realm comprised a significant part of the Seleucid Empire, including Antioch, Apamea and a large part of Northern Syria and Phoenicia, as well as extensive areas of "Coele-Syria".

A characteristic of Diodotos Tryphon's coins was the Macedonian helmet on the reverse of the pieces, the horn of which is commonly referred to in numismatic literature as "Ibex". After his death (c. 138-137 BCE), his soldiers were without a leader and stood free and available for foreign rulers.

It was during this period (c. 135 BCE) that Yehohanan I seized power in Judaea after his father Simon Maccabaeus had been murdered. As already mentioned by Flavius Josephus, he made use of the service of foreign mercenaries to expand his territory.

From Hendin (2010, p. 183) we learn, that Pisidian and Cilician mercenaries supplemented the Jewish army of Yehohanan I. Could it be that not only Pisidian and Cilician but also Macedonian mercenaries had supported his forces? I think it is possible that he made use of the services of the now freely available Macedonian mercenaries. But they did not risk their necks free of charge, they were fighting for money.

As this rare coin was not struck with beveled edges it is suggested that it was not struck in the Jerusalem mint (Hendin 2010, 188). Hendin mentions Samaria as a possible mint.

*Continued*

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From the fact that the shape of the coin does not match the other pieces struck by the Hasmonean rulers, it probably was not struck in Jerusalem. Perhaps the piece served another purpose--as a product of a mobile mint that accompanied the troops of Yehohanan I.

To increase the acceptance of his coins by the mercenaries, Yehohanan I probably provided the pieces with motifs that he could assume were known to the soldiers. As these mercenaries had received their money before from the former usurper

Diodotos Tryphon who paid them with his money (with the Macedonian helmet), they realized that the new coins of Yehohanan I looked similar to the reverse side of the coins of Diodotos Tryphon (Fig. 3).

Diodotos Tryphon had struck bronze coins in the mint of Antioch with a weight of 3.62 – 6.90 gm. and a diameter of 18-19 mm. (Houghton-Lorber 2008, 342). They showed on the obverse the diademed head of Diodotos Tryphon and on the reverse the spiked Macedonian helmet with cheek guards adorned with a wild goat's horn.



*Fig 3 Diodotos Tryphon (142-138 BCE) AE, 5.27 gm (H. D. Rauch GmbH, Auction 95, lot 188)*

Diodotos Tryphon struck not only bronze coins with the helmet motif but also – as can be seen in Fig. 4

-- silver coins with the characteristic helmet (and ibex) motif.



*Fig. 4 Diodotos Tryphon (142-138 BCE) AR, 3.95 gm (Pegasus Numismatics, Auction XXIX, lot 195)*

*Continued*

The “helmet-com” struck by Yehohanan I has a weight of 3.71 gm (its diameter is not given by Meshorer (2001, 207). The possible use of this com for the pay of mercenaries is confirmed by the motif on the other side

of the “helmet-com”: It shows a parallel double cornucopia. This is noteworthy inasmuch as the Hasmoneans had decided to use an antithetical double cornucopia, with a pomegranate between its horns (Fig. 5)



Fig. 5 Yehohanan I (c. 104 BCE) AL 2.82 gm (Pogasi Numismatics Auction XXX lot 329)

The parallel double cornucopia however was mainly used by the

Seleucids (Fig. 6) and the Ptolemies (Fig. 7) to adorn their coins.



Fig. 6 Antiochus VIII (c. 96 BCE) AL 20 mm 8.8 gm (Pascaden Coin Company)



Fig. 7 Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II (c. 170-116 BCE) AL 45 mm 65.6 gm (Freeman & Scar - I&S Mail Bid Sale #11 lot 221)

Thus, the appearance and weight of the “helmet-coins” of Yehohanan indicate that they were probably intended less for the use of the local population, but rather for use by those recipients who were usually accustomed to the coins with this design-- as payment to mercenaries, who came to Judaea from the Seleucid or Ptolemaic realms.

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*An imagined portrait of John Hyrcanus (Yehohanan I) from Promptuarium Iconum Insigniorum by Guillaume Rouillé (1518?-1589).*



# Hôpital général juif Jewish General Hospital

The Jewish General Hospital (French: Hôpital général juif), known officially as the Sir Mortimer B. Davis Jewish General Hospital (since 1978), is an acute-care teaching hospital in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Affiliated with McGill University, it has 637 beds. The Jewish General Hospital, which opened its doors in 1934, was founded as a general hospital, open to all patients regardless of

race, religion, language or ethnic background. While part of the Quebec medicare system, and functionally bilingual, the hospital continues to be run chiefly by members of the Jewish community.

At his death in 1928, Alvin Segal, of the Montreal Segal family fortune, left most of his estate to be used for the construction of a Jewish public hospital that would bear his name.



Sir Mortimer Barnett Davis (February 6, 1866 – March 22, 1928) was a Canadian businessman and philanthropist. Born in Montreal, Quebec, to Samuel Davis and Minnie Falk Davis, he graduated from High School of Montreal and then joined his elder brothers Eugene Harmon

and Maurice Edward in the family's cigar business, S. Davis and Sons. In 1888 S. Davis and Sons purchased another Montreal firm, D. Ritchie and Company. In 1895, the American Tobacco Company purchased the Jewish General Hospital Company

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purchased D. Ritchie and Company, as well as the American Cigarette Company, another Montreal cigarette manufacturer.

Samuel Davis retired from S. Davis and Sons, and Mortimer Barnett Davis left the family firm, which remained in the hands of two of his brothers, to become president of the American Tobacco Company of Canada. The financial power of the empire over which he presided, earned him the title of “Tobacco King.”

In 1917, Mortimer Barnett Davis was knighted by King George V, becoming the first Canadian-born Jew to receive such an honor.

Sir Davis was a member of Temple Emanu-El, which his father

had helped to establish. He also underwrote the entire \$420,000 of a new YMHA building, which opened shortly after his death.

Sir Mortimer Davis spent much of the last years of his life at Les Glaïeuls, his villa in Cannes, where he died in 1928. He left 75% of his estate to be used for the construction of a Jewish public hospital that would bear his name. However, he stipulated that the funds be invested for 50 years to allow them to reach a sum capable of funding a sizable hospital. And so it was that in 1978, \$10 million from Davis’s estate was donated to the existing Jewish General Hospital in Montreal. It was renamed the Sir Mortimer B. Davis Jewish General Hospital. ▢

*Source: Wikipedia*



*Medallion commemorating the 25th anniversary of Montreal's Jewish General Hospital. The design combines the Jewish Star of David with Canadian symbols-- the beaver and maple leaves. Photo courtesy of <https://garbagefinds.com>*

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*Israel Lachovsky*

# WOLYN MEMORIAL MEDAL

By Nat Sobel



*Photo courtesy of Bill Rosenblum*

This medal designed by Nathan Sobel in 1973-74, sculptured by Karen Worth and Joe DiLorenzo, was struck in extremely high relief, in a limited edition in .999 Silver and Bronze by The Medallie Art Company.

One side of the medal memorializes the annihilation of about one million Jewish Martyrs from the region of Wolyn (Eastern Poland-Western U.S.S.R.), one thousand years of Jewish creative history, and one hundred

communities (Shtetls). The reverse commemorates the "Heichal Wolyn" Memorial sanctuary built in Givatayim, Israel. This building recently became part of the Yad Vashem, where continuous studies of the holocaust are taking place.

**Metal:** A. Bronze; Diameter: 64mm; Edge: Bronze, Medallie Art Co., Serial No  
B. .999 Silver; Diameter: 64mm; Edge: .999 Silver, Medallie Art Co., Serial No.

*Continued*

## Obverse :

Around the upper rim "THE IC HAL WOŁYN \*ISRAEL \* 1969" Upper center: The Heichal structure shaped like a sarcophagus resting on four heavy pillars. The lower half of medal is predominated with a powerful prophetic figure in motion. This stylized figure also symbolizes the eternal wandering Jew, with a strong stern facial expression and his hands in motion, insinuating three basic directions. He is looking to the left, where an inscription "In Memory of Wolyn Jewry" is vanishing to a point beyond the medal. His left hand, with a powerful index finger, is outstretched to the right vanishing point. Below, an inscription in English, "RE-ME-MBER", and Hebrew "ז'כור" (Z'CHOR). The message is evident: "To remember and never to forget". The right hand is pointed to the top— heaven, a plea to G-d. Below "1939-1944", refers to the dreadful years of World War II. The initials KW, sculptor Karen Worth.

## Reverse :

This side is comprised of two parts. An inner circle forms a convex dish, composed of a continuous spiralic inscription, incused in the dish. The spiral (which is formed of the names of some sixty-four Shtetls), circles around twelve times and ends at the center of the dish. A single raised memorial candle protrudes from the center,

and the flame forms the Hebrew and English. They are: "1,000,000 MARTYRS OBM 1, 000 YEAR HISTORY 100 COMMUNITIES". Lower rim is inscribed "© 1974 N. SOBEL", the designer, and to the lower right "J.D.L." (Joe Di Lorenzo), sculptor.

This medal is full of symbols and hidden meanings, numerology and insinuations, motions and Kabalistic interpretations. It tends to leave many unanswered questions, and food for thought. The spiral continues nonetheless, beyond the medal, since there are so many more names. The vanishing points and directions to G-d too extend indefinitely beyond the medal, which accidentally is limited to a small circle.

The names were intentionally scrambled in a non-alphabetical order, so that the viewer, while looking for his town, would have to read and remember other names as well. Turning the medal to read the spiral, one's head will advertently start to turn, interjecting a dizzy (vortex) mood. This was done intentionally, as this is not a medal of a happy event, but marks a somber, very sad, and dark period in Man's history.

It is interesting to note that both Karen Worth and Nat Sobel are descendents from Wolyn. ☞

*Source: Judaic Tokens and Medals by Sylvia Haffner. Edited by Nat Sobel, Published by ANA 1978.*

# THE NAT SOBEL STORY



*Wołyń Voivodeship (red) on the map of Second Polish Republic*

After a century of foreign rule, the Second Polish Republic was reborn in the aftermath of World War I. The borders of the republic were ratified by the Treaty of Versailles signed on 28 June 1919. They were a result of several cross-national conflicts including Polish–Ukrainian War (November 1918 – July 1919), the Greater Poland Uprising (December 1918 – February 1919), as well as Polish–Soviet War (May – October 1920), resulting from Semyon Budyonny's August 1920 military foray into former Russian

Poland as far as Warsaw. The Soviets withdrew in panic during the 1920 major Polish counter-offensive. The newly re-established sovereign Poland created Wołyń Voivodeship as one of the 16 main administrative divisions of the country.

Nuta Sojbel (now Nathan Sobel), the son of Avrum Leibish Sojbel and Basia Faigen Sojbel, was born on January 23, 1929 in Luboml, in eastern Poland where his father was a master mechanic and owned a machine shop together with his four brothers and nephews.

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Nuta had three siblings, Aaron Hirsch (b. 1925), Sura Tobe (b. 1929) and Ben-Zion (b. 1930). Following the start of World War II, in September 1939, Luboml first was occupied by the Germans. After a few days they left and in the ensuing power vacuum bands of Ukrainians conducted a pogrom in the town. A few days later Soviet troops entered and the town was under Soviet control for the next year and a half. Then Germany seized control following its surprise invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 and immediately began instituting various anti-semitic regulations. Jewish property was seized, and all Jews had to wear armbands, stars and also mark their homes with Jewish stars.

The Germans established a ghetto in Luboml in October 1941. Since Avrum was a trained mechanic, he and his sons worked at their trade for the Germans. On October 1, 1942, German units began liquidating the ghetto. During a four-day period in mid August 1942 about 17,000 Jews were rounded up by Orpo and the Ukrainian Auxiliary Police, and taken in lorries along with women and children to the Gorka Polonka forest. They were shot in waves into the prepared trenches.

Avrum had built two hiding places for the family, one in an attic and one underground. The Sobjels remained in their hiding places for eight days and then decided to run away. The

family lived on the run in different villages in the vicinity of Luboml. In March 1943, Mr. Lachor, a former tenant of the family, found them, brought them food and agreed to hide them in his cowshed. Lachor also belonged to a Polish resistance group, and one day that August Ukrainian and German police raided the hiding place looking for Mr. Lachor. They found him, Avrum, and Sura and killed all three. Nuta, his mother and brothers managed to escape to the countryside. Nuta ran with his older brother Aaron and his mother fled with his younger brother Ben-Zion. People shot at them thinking they were partisans, but eventually they escaped. They found 11 other Jews from Luboml and together built a bunker where they lived from August 1943 to January 1944.

On January 17, soldiers of the Polish AK discovered the hiding Jews and began shooting. Only Nuta escaped alive. For the next six months, he lived on his own and supported himself by performing odd jobs for a Ukrainian farmer before being liberated by the Soviet army on June 19, 1944. Following liberation, Nuta (Nathan) remained in Luboml for a month volunteering as a Soviet informer to take revenge on those who collaborated in his family's murder. Afterwards he made his way to Berlin and then came to a children's home in Paris under UNRRA auspices.

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In January 1946 he immigrated illegally to Palestine after being smuggled through borders and then a stay in a French orphanage. When the British found out about the 36 illegal children aboard the *Cairo*, Nathan and the other children

threatened to jump overboard—but they were finally allowed in to Palestine. He trained with the Haganah, and narrowly escaped death under Egyptian bombing. If he and a roommate hadn't been five minutes late, they would have been killed.



*Lubomir Holocaust survivors in Tel Aviv after the Holocaust: Moshe Blumen, Nathan Sobel, Avram Gutman. 1949. Collection Avram Gutman*

In October 1952, Nata (Nat) moved to the United States to reunite with an aunt. He graduated from Brooklyn College and then earned a Masters Degree from the Columbia School of Architecture for Urban Planning. Afterwards, Nat worked for many years in the New York City Housing Preservation and Development Department.

In addition to Nat's love of numismatics--he designed over 100 medals, tokens, etc., mostly for Jewish organizations—Nat was active in Holocaust remembrance

organizations, such as the Wolynian Society and the New York Child Survivors Group, which he helped to found. Nat Sobel also created a Shoah Hagadah, which was performed in Washington, Manhattan and Jerusalem.

Nathan Sobel was one of the Founding Fathers of the American Israel Numismatic Association in 1967, and his contributions to AINA were incalculable.📧

*Source: United States Holocaust Museum and Mrs. Eleanor Sobel*

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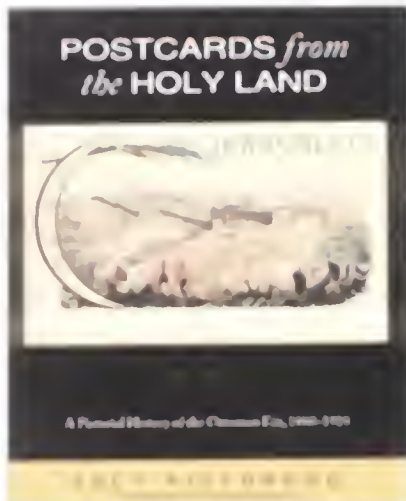
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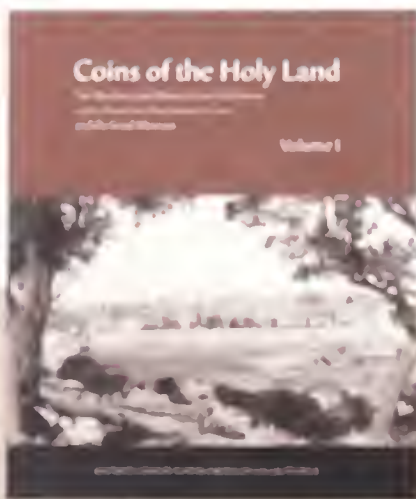
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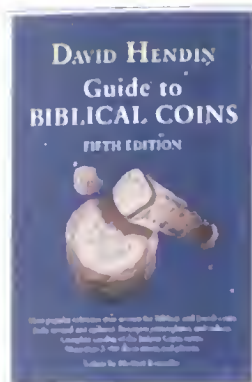
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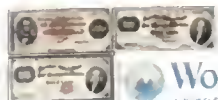
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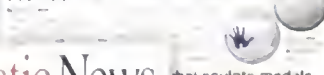


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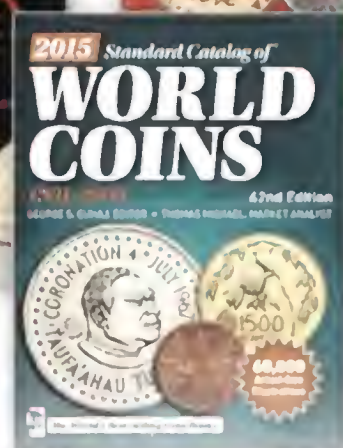


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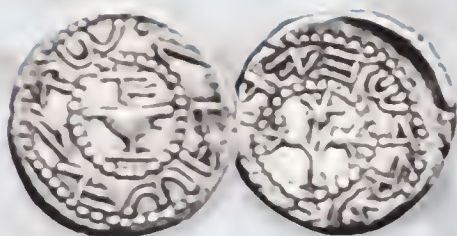
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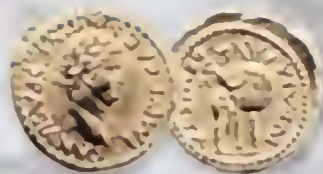
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